

## SAMPLES OF COLORED COTTON ON DISPLAY

Mr. A. W. Brabham, of Olar, Astonishes the Scientific World and the New York Cotton Exchange by Proving that You Can Raise Cotton of Different Colors

The article below by Mr. A. W. Brabham, of Olar, was recently printed in "Realty," a magazine published in Newark, N. J. The publishers of "Realty" precede Mr. Brabham's article with this comment:

A. W. Brabham, a South Carolina planter of intelligence and imagination, has astonished the scientific world by growing colored cotton from a white plant. He has sent to the New York cotton exchange samples of a dark greenish gray, a light green, a tan and a light tan. These samples have caused a sensation. There is no reason why other planters of Sea Island cotton cannot emulate Mr. Brabham. The commercial possibilities of natural colored cotton are enormous, which cotton goods manufacturers will be quick to grasp, no matter the price of raw material. Mr. Brabham's discovery will greatly enhance the value of land in the Sea Island cotton belt.

Before treating the subject of producing cotton in natural colors, a paragraph on the changes in cotton production is in order. Short or upland cotton more than once since the Civil War has gone down to zero—4 cents the pound in the local markets—on the other hand cotton, produced off the coast of South Carolina, parts of Georgia and Florida, known as Sea Island, was commanding as much as 40 cents per pound at the time that ordinary cotton was selling for 4 cents.

A few thinking cotton planters, myself included, conceived the idea of crossing the upland varieties with the Sea Island sorts, hoping to produce an intermediate grade. We were laughed at. The consensus of opinion was that we were on a "fool's errand," or were playing the role of Jason with his Argosy in search of the golden fleece. The desired cotton was produced, the mills took it, and last year the South produced 880,000 bales of upland long staple cotton, commanding a premium of from 2 to 10 cents per pound.

Some years ago, in making crosses between upland, Sea Island and Egyptian cotton, lint of a different color was found. Here was a puzzle in plant pathology. We have always heard that like begets like, but in this case it was far different. Experiments were begun, but, of course, it took a year to get results, but the same color of lint produced itself, although the parents were both plants bearing white cotton two years before.

It was plain to me that this white cotton in some time past had completely assimilated some different colored cotton, and by recrossing it, this lost colored cotton was at least restored in part. Why reproduced by crossing is inexplicable. Perhaps the learned may explain it, but I must admit that I cannot, unless in this way.

### Produce First Color.

To produce a first color, it is necessary to have one parent plant of the Egyptian strain.

Now, when it was discovered that cotton could be produced in the Nile Delta, cotton seed from every part of the world was poured into Egypt and planted indiscriminately, and no cotton comes from Egypt as white as the cotton produced in the South, the Egyptian being from a light cream to a brown.

To show that all sorts of cotton were planted there, the Coptic planter is now having trouble with Hindi cotton appearing here and there, and is a menace to his fine staple, for it is known among all cotton experts that India produces the shortest and coarsest cotton known, while on the other hand the Egyptian stands next to the fine Sea Island cotton in length and fineness of fibre. The Coptic planter, also the expert breeders of Europe, are at a loss to know from whence comes this Hindi cotton year after year, while strenuous efforts are being made every year to exterminate it, going so far as to plant seed for seeding purposes under fine wire gauze, so as to keep out all insects, but even under this protection the Hindi cotton appears. The reason is simple; the Hindi cotton has become fixed in the "blood," the "life," of the Egyptian cotton, and the best plan for the Coptic planter to pursue is to get the pure seed from Peru, for there in the land of the Incas will be found this brown cotton in its pristine purity. Plant this cotton in the Delta, and no Hindi cotton will appear.

From many experiments made in

the last seven years, I am sure that black cotton once existed, but has been completely swallowed up in the white or brown cottons. It will be restored sooner or later; in fact, I am almost sure of restoring it, but the plant breeder is sure of nothing till he gets it.

### White Master Color.

Every close observer of the laws of biology and pathology observe that white is the master color, if color it be. Put white blood into black animals and watch results. Cross white cereals with cereals of any color, and soon the whole will be white. Grow plants having white seeds or fibres with other colors and the same still applies. That is why white cotton is more widely known and grown than other sorts.

In the beginning there were at least seven primal pairs of all animals made, and not less than seven varieties of all plants made. Of the animals the greatest variations in colors occur in man, simply because some races of men have ever been migratory or nomadic. Take the races of men who have lived isolated, and there is no great variation in their color. Then take a roving race, as the Aryan, for instance, and the shades are very marked from an almost white to a brown.

I am aware that this may offend some of the white race, especially in the South, where I live, but it is true regardless of the offense. A striking example is seen in that portion of Europe, also Asia, bordering on the Mediterranean. Across that sea is Africa, with its black races; another way is the Malay Peninsula, with its brown people, and still in another direction is China, with its yellow people. The blood of all these people, to some extent, flows in the veins of some of the branches of the Aryan race, simply because they have always been a roving or nomadic people.

To prove that this law of nature applies to plants as well as to animals, take the cotton of Peru. There the red and brown have never been exposed to the influences of white cotton, and to this day they grow in their pristine purity. The same may be said of the colored cottons of Asia. Where not grown in close proximity with white cotton they retain their original color.

Coming down now to the growing of colored cotton, the breeder should procure such primal sorts as have survived the ravages of time. They will cross readily, but the white has the power to simply overcome each and every color. It is possible to breed back these colors from the white, but it takes time and patience.

Note—Under the date of Sept. 11 Mr. Brabham sent the Editor of "Realty" three samples of long fibre cotton, one pure white, one a cinnamon shade and the third a grayish green. In his letter Mr. Brabham asks that the following postscript be added to his first communication, which is printed above.

### Colored Cotton Samples.

P. S.—Since sending you the above article I have gathered from my experimental plots the samples of cotton I am enclosing you. The bright brown is a native of Siam planted on my farm this year, and is now opening. The dark color is a hybrid of my own breeding, and seven years ago it was as white as the white sample sent you in this mail. The question presents itself that should the offspring of this dark shade grow darker year by year, which it has done for six years, in the next seven years it will be black or even ebony.

This dark sample settles beyond all doubt that it is a biological fact, or pathological fact, that by a back breeding (I have no word at my command to express my meaning more forcibly) that a lost color may be restored, although no trace of this color may be visible. It shows clearly with what wonderful tenacity nature hands down from sire to son, from mother to daughter, that thing we call "blood." To my way of thinking and reasoning, nothing is lost in nature, no plants and animals so long as the species exist.

If in man can be located the "blood" of the ancient Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Phoenicians, or any of those primal people, true type can be restored in ten generations. If man had evolved a la Darwin, to this day specimens of the lower orders would have appeared constantly. The laws of nature have never varied an

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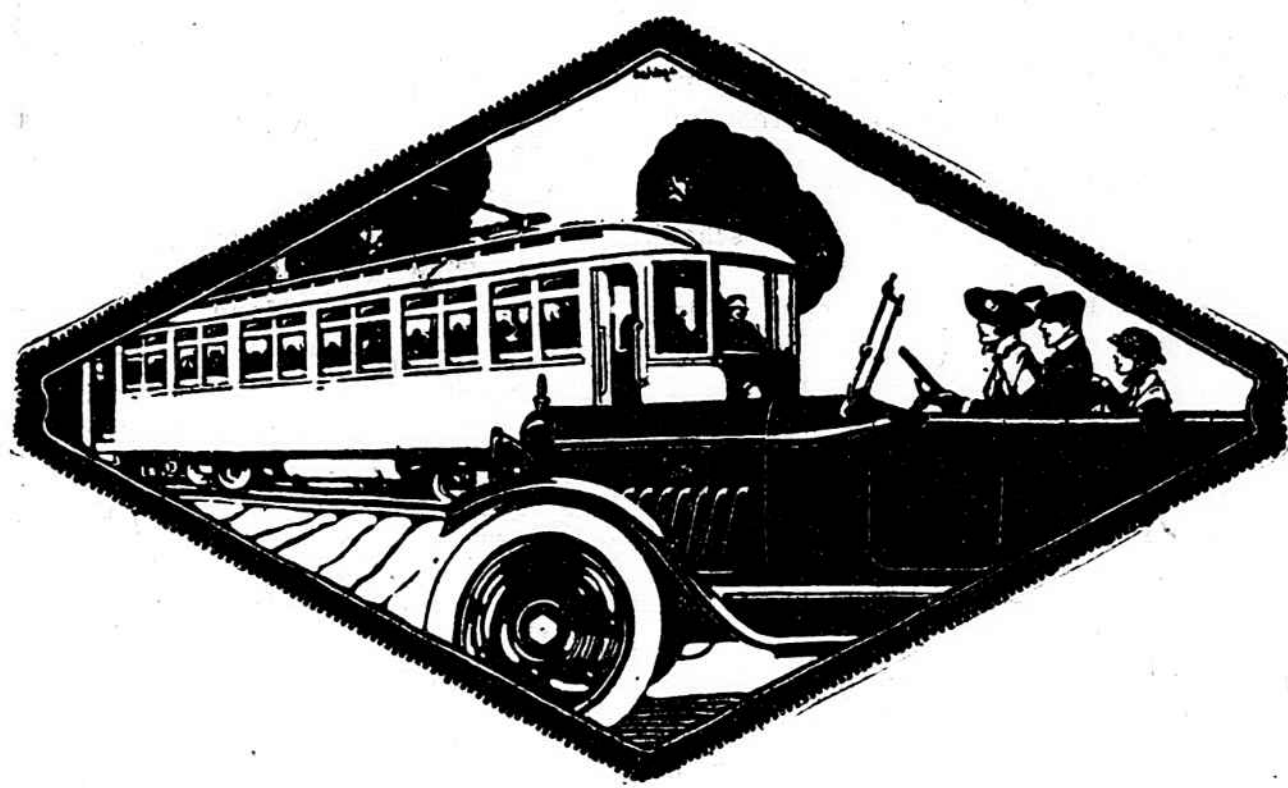
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